

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08497 121643Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----062032 121646Z /41
O 121621Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3700

S E C R E T BOGOTA 8497

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, ASEC, PINS, CO
SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING CASE

FOLLOWING THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND LOPEZ, CHARGE RAISED THE STARR CASE WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ IN ATTEMPT TO DRAW HIM OUT FURTHER ON HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ROLE OF AN INTERMEDIARY. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE USG COULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH KIDNAPPERS, STARR'S MOTHER WAS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THEM IN ORDER TO SECURE HER SON'S SAFE RELEASE. PROBLEM WAS THAT SHE WAS ELDERLY WOMAN WHO DID NOT SPEAK SPANISH AND WHO WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT , AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO REMAIN IN BOGOTA FOR A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS. SHE MIGHT THEREFORE CONSIDER ENLISTING THE AID OF A LOCAL INTERMEDIARY BUT NEITHER SHE, NOR THE INTERMEDIARY, WOULD WANT TO VIOLATE COLOMBIAN LAW THROGUH THEIR ACTIONS ON STARR'S BEHALF. PRESIDENT LOPEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM BUT THAT THE BEST HE COULD SAY WAS THAT SITUATION WAS LIKE THAT OF A MAN WHO BADLY WANTED TO HAVE A SMOKE BUT WHO FOUND HIMSELF IN THE NO-SMOKING SECTION OF A RAILROAD CAR. IF HE WERE TO ASK THE CONDUCTOR IF HE COULD SMOKE THE ANSWER WOULD BE PREDICTABLE SO PROBABLY THE BEST THING FOR HIM TO DO WAS TO GO AHEAD AND LIGHT UP AND HOPE FOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08497 121643Z

THE BEST. AFTER MAKING THIS COMMENT, LOPEZ CHANGED THE SUBJECT. BASED ON THIS EXCHANGE, AND PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO PIN LOPEZ DOWN ON THIS POINT, CHARGE BELIEVES LOPEZ IS NOT LIKELY TO GO BEYOND THIS TYPE OF TACIT ACQUIESCENCE IN THE ROLE OF AN INTERMEDIARY.
DREXLER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Subject: STARR KIDNAPPING CASE FOLLOWING THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND LOPEZ, CHARGE RAISED THE STARR CASE WITH PRESI
TAGS: CASC, ASEC, PINS, CO, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
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